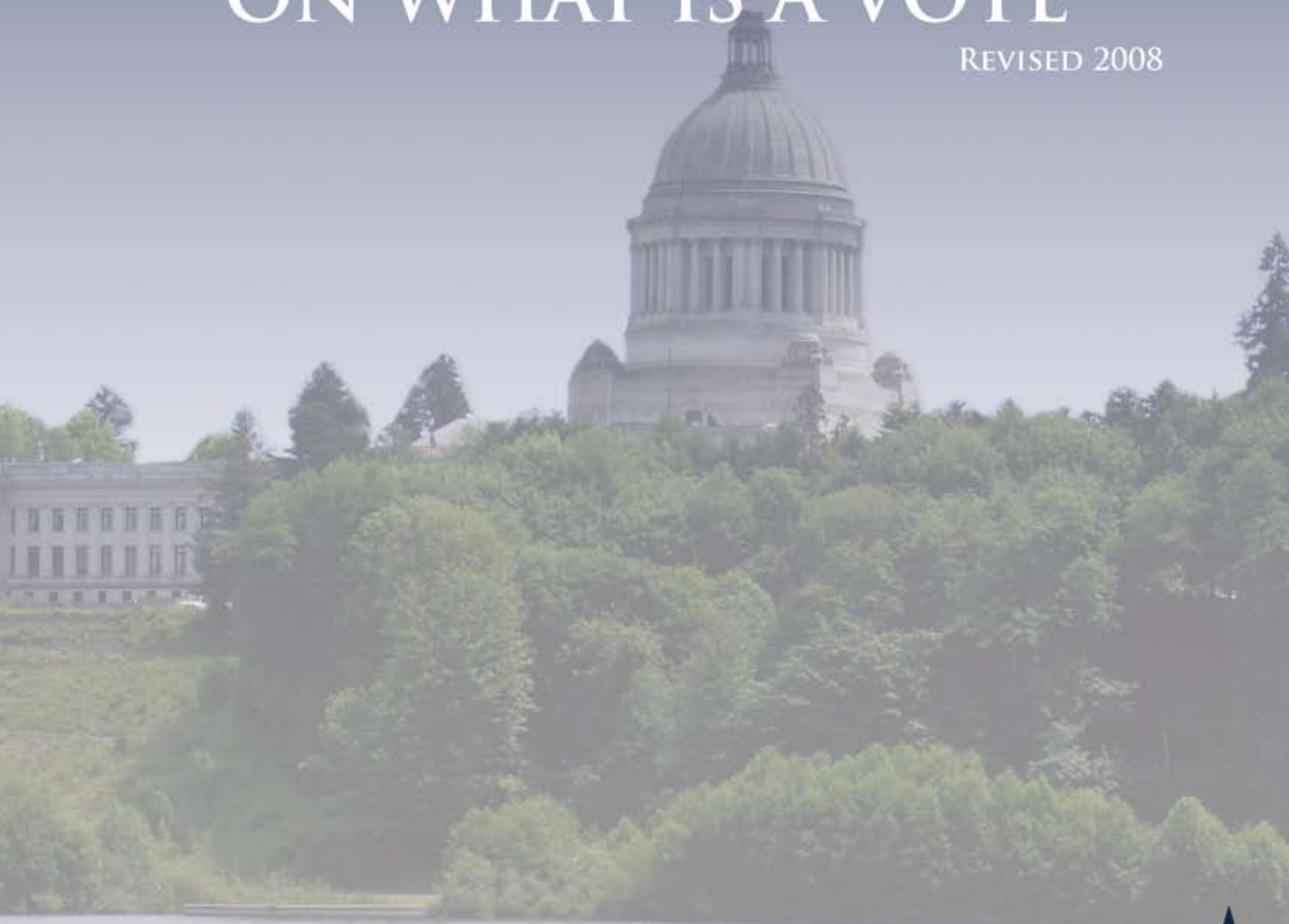


VOTER INTENT

STATEWIDE STANDARDS ON WHAT IS A VOTE

REVISED 2008



Washington
Secretary of State
SAM REED



In recent years, the impact of each vote has been repeatedly proven in close elections, such as the 2000 Presidential election in Florida, and the 2004 Governor's race in Washington. Determining the intent of the voter is an extremely important part of the canvassing process, and becomes even more critical in close elections.

The United States Supreme Court observed in *Bush v. Gore*, 531 U.S. 98 (2000), that Florida's lack of standards for determining voter intent led to arbitrary evaluation of the ballots, and therefore arbitrary counting of votes in the Presidential recounts. The Court concluded that these circumstances violated the Equal Protection Clause of the U.S. Constitution. In response to the 2000 Presidential election, Congress passed the Help America Vote Act in 2002. The Help America Vote Act mandated in 42 U.S.C. § 15481(a)(6) that states adopt uniform standards that define what constitutes a vote and what will be counted as a vote for each voting system in the state. These standards are necessary to ensure consistency across the state and prevent equal protection violations.

The state of Washington makes every effort to count each valid vote. Being a voter intent state, voters are not disenfranchised merely because they marked a ballot differently than directed. When voter intent can be discerned, votes will be counted.

Pursuant to *Bush v. Gore* and the Help America Vote Act, the Certification and Training Program within the Elections Division worked with the County Auditors and County Canvassing Boards to develop statewide standards for determining voter intent. Every County Auditor and every County Canvassing Board had the opportunity to contribute and provide input into the development of these rules, which are codified in WAC 434-261-086. The standards supplement existing statutes and administrative rule.

This publication illustrates the standards in pictorial examples of voted ballots and how they should be interpreted by County Canvassing Boards. All three types of optical scan and digital scan ballots currently in use in Washington are represented.

No publication could address all of the circumstances that can arise in canvassing an election. In the event a situation arises that is not addressed in state law, administrative rule, or this publication, the authority to determine voter intent rests with the County Canvassing Board.

Regardless of our individual perspectives, we all share the same goal of accurate and fair elections. This publication will be one of many tools we employ to achieve this goal.

Sam Reed
Secretary of State

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Rule A - Target Area	2-19
<i>Exception 1. Obvious stray marks p. 12-15</i>	
<i>Exception 2. Hesitation marks p. 16</i>	
<i>Exception 3. Parts of written notes p. 17-19</i>	
<i>Exception 4. Corrected votes (for examples, see Rule C)</i>	
Rule B - Consistent Patterns	20-29
Rule C - Corrected Votes	30-34
Rule D - Not a Correction	36-38
Rule E - Written Instructions	40-41
Rule F - Identifying Marks	42-49
Rule G - Overvotes	50-51
<i>Exception 1. Already on the ballot (for examples, see Rule I)</i>	
Rule H - No Bubble	52-53
Rule I - Already on the Ballot	54-55
Rule J - Name Variations	56-57
Rule K - Mystery Write-In	58-59
Rule L - Mystery Write-In with a Candidate	60-61
Rule M - Name Combinations	62-63
Rule N - Write-In Overvotes	64-67
Rule O - Not Eligible	68-71
<i>Exception 1. Provisional ballots</i>	
Rule P - Write-In Vote in the Wrong Place	72-73
Rule Q - Messy Marks	74-75
Rule R - Pattern of Partisan Voting	76
Rule S - Anything Else	77
Glossary	78
References	79-82

Rule A - Target Area

Any marks made in the target area shall be counted as valid votes, with the exceptions below.

Any marks made outside of the target area will only be valid if they fulfill the consistent pattern requirements of Rule B.

Exceptions to Rule A:

Exception 1. Obvious stray marks

Exception 2. Hesitation marks

Exception 3. Parts of written notes







Exception 4. Corrected votes

For examples of Exception 4, see Rule C on page 30 and Rule E on page 40.

NOTE: For the purposes of this manual, political party preference and other ballot format requirements have not been included in the pictorial examples unless specifically relating to the rule.

Rule A - Example 1a

In the following example, all choices marked are valid votes because they are all marked in the target area and do not fall under one of the exceptions to Rule A.

Sample Precinct Ballot Code 4 Leg Dist: 14		Official Ballot - Sample County, WA General Election November 6, 2222	
INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS: Fill in the oval next to your choice. VOTE LIKE THIS: 			
IF YOU MAKE A MISTAKE: Draw a line through the entire candidate's name like this:  George Washington You then have the option of making another choice if you wish.			
State Representative District 14, Position #1		State Representative District 14, Position #2	
<input type="radio"/> Teddy Roosevelt		 John Quincy Adams	
 Rutherford B. Hayes		<input type="radio"/> Dwight D. Eisenhower	
<input type="radio"/> William Henry Harrison		<input type="radio"/> Franklin D. Roosevelt	
<input type="radio"/> _____ Write-in		<input type="radio"/> _____ Write-in	
Englewood Fire District Commissioner		Water District 12 Commissioner	
 Martin Van Buren		<input type="radio"/> James Monroe	
<input type="radio"/> Zachary Taylor		 William McKinley	
<input type="radio"/> Ulysses S. Grant		<input type="radio"/> James Buchanan	
<input type="radio"/> _____ Write-in		<input type="radio"/> _____ Write-in	



















Rule A - Example 1b

In the following example, all choices marked are valid votes because they are all marked in the target area and do not fall under one of the exceptions to Rule A.

Sample Precinct Ballot Code 4 Leg Dist: 14		Official Ballot - Sample County, WA General Election November 6, 2222	
INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS: Fill in the square next to your choice. VOTE LIKE THIS: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
IF YOU MAKE A MISTAKE: Draw a line through the entire candidate's name like this: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> George Washington You then have the option of making another choice if you wish.			
State Representative District 14, Position #1		State Representative District 14, Position #2	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Teddy Roosevelt	<input type="checkbox"/> John Quincy Adams		
<input type="checkbox"/> Rutherford B. Hayes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dwight D. Eisenhower		
<input type="checkbox"/> William Henry Harrison	<input type="checkbox"/> Franklin D. Roosevelt		
<input type="checkbox"/> Write-in _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Write-in _____		
Englewood Fire District Commissioner		Water District 12 Commissioner	
<input type="checkbox"/> Martin Van Buren	<input type="checkbox"/> James Monroe		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Zachary Taylor	<input type="checkbox"/> William McKinley		
<input type="checkbox"/> Ulysses S. Grant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> James Buchanan		
<input type="checkbox"/> Write-in _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Write-in _____		

Rule A - Example 1c

In the following example, all choices marked are valid votes because they are all marked in the target area and do not fall under one of the exceptions to Rule A.

Sample Precinct Ballot Code 4 Leg Dist: 14		Official Ballot - Sample County, WA General Election November 6, 2222	
INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS: Connect the arrow with a line pointing to your choice, LIKE THIS: 			
IF YOU MAKE A MISTAKE: Draw a line through the entire candidate's name like this:  John Doe You then have the option of making another choice if you wish.			
State Representative District 14, Position #1		State Representative District 14, Position #2	
Teddy Roosevelt 	John Quincy Adams 		
Rutherford B. Hayes 	Dwight D. Eisenhower 		
William Henry Harrison 	Franklin D. Roosevelt 		
Write-in 	Write-in 		
Englewood Fire District Commissioner		Water District 12 Commissioner	
Martin Van Buren 	James Monroe 		
Zachary Taylor 	William McKinley 		
Ulysses S. Grant 	James Buchanan 		
Write-in 	Write-in 		

Rule A - Example 2a

In the following example, only the vote for Roosevelt will count. The other marks are made outside of the target area and do not fulfill the consistent pattern requirements of Rule B, so they are not valid.

Sample Precinct Ballot Code 4 Leg Dist: 14		Official Ballot - Sample County, WA General Election November 6, 2222	
INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS: Fill in the oval next to your choice. VOTE LIKE THIS: ●			
IF YOU MAKE A MISTAKE: Draw a line through the entire candidate's name like this: ● George Washington You then have the option of making another choice if you wish.			
State Representative District 14, Position #1		State Representative District 14, Position #2	
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Teddy Roosevelt		<input type="radio"/> John Quincy Adams	
<input type="radio"/> Rutherford B. Hayes		<input type="radio"/> Dwight D. Eisenhower	
<input type="radio"/> William Henry Harrison		<input type="radio"/> Franklin D. Roosevelt	
<input type="radio"/> Write-in _____		<input type="radio"/> Write-in _____	
Englewood Fire District Commissioner		Water District 12 Commissioner	
<input type="radio"/> Martin Van Buren		<input type="radio"/> James Monroe	
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Zachary Taylor		<input type="radio"/> William McKinley	
<input type="radio"/> Ulysses S. Grant		<input checked="" type="radio"/> James Buchanan	
<input type="radio"/> Write-in _____		<input type="radio"/> Write-in _____	

Rule A - Example 2b

In the following example, only the vote for Roosevelt will count. The other marks are made outside of the target area and do not fulfill the consistent pattern requirements of Rule B, so they are not valid.

Sample Precinct Ballot Code 4 Leg Dist: 14		Official Ballot - Sample County, WA General Election November 6, 2222	
INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS: Fill in the square next to your choice. VOTE LIKE THIS: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
IF YOU MAKE A MISTAKE: Draw a line through the entire candidate's name like this: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> George Washington You then have the option of making another choice if you wish.			
State Representative District 14, Position #1		State Representative District 14, Position #2	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Teddy Roosevelt	<input type="checkbox"/> Rutherford B. Hayes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> John Quincy Adams	<input type="checkbox"/> Dwight D. Eisenhower
<input type="checkbox"/> William Henry Harrison	<input type="checkbox"/> Write-in _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Franklin D. Roosevelt	<input type="checkbox"/> Write-in _____
Englewood Fire District Commissioner		Water District 12 Commissioner	
<input type="checkbox"/> Martin Van Buren	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Zachary Taylor	<input type="checkbox"/> James Monroe	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> William McKinley
<input type="checkbox"/> Ulysses S. Grant	<input type="checkbox"/> Write-in _____	<input type="checkbox"/> James Buchanan	<input type="checkbox"/> Write-in _____



Rule A - Example 2c

In the following example, only the vote for Roosevelt will count. The other marks are made outside of the target area and do not fulfill the consistent pattern requirements of Rule B, so they are not valid.

Sample Precinct Ballot Code 4 Leg Dist: 14		Official Ballot - Sample County, WA General Election November 6, 2222	
INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS: Connect the arrow with a line pointing to your choice, LIKE THIS: ←			
IF YOU MAKE A MISTAKE: Draw a line through the entire candidate's name like this: ← John Doe ← You then have the option of making another choice if you wish.			
State Representative District 14, Position #1		State Representative District 14, Position #2	
Teddy Roosevelt ←	John Quincy Adams ←		
Rutherford B. Hayes ←	Dwight D. Eisenhower ←		
William Henry Harrison ←	Franklin D. Roosevelt ←		
Write-in ←	Write-in ←		
Englewood Fire District Commissioner		Water District 12 Commissioner	
Martin Van Buren ←	James Monroe ✓ ←		
Zachary Taylor ←	William McKinley ←		
Ulysses S. Grant ←	James Buchanan ←		
Write-in ←	Write-in ←		



















Rule A - Example 3a

In this example, the marks made on this ballot get smaller with each race, an implication of ‘voter fatigue’. All of the marks are in the target area and are valid votes.

Sample Precinct Ballot Code 4 Leg Dist: 14		Official Ballot - Sample County, WA General Election November 6, 2222	
INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS: Fill in the oval next to your choice. VOTE LIKE THIS: 			
IF YOU MAKE A MISTAKE: Draw a line through the entire candidate's name like this:  George Washington You then have the option of making another choice if you wish.			
State Representative District 14, Position #1		State Representative District 14, Position #2	
<input type="radio"/> Teddy Roosevelt		<input type="radio"/> John Quincy Adams	
<input type="radio"/> Rutherford B. Hayes		<input type="radio"/> Dwight D. Eisenhower	
<input checked="" type="radio"/> William Henry Harrison		<input checked="" type="radio"/> Franklin D. Roosevelt	
<input type="radio"/> Write-in _____		<input type="radio"/> Write-in _____	
Englewood Fire District Commissioner		Water District 12 Commissioner	
<input type="radio"/> Martin Van Buren		<input type="radio"/> James Monroe	
<input type="radio"/> Zachary Taylor		<input type="radio"/> William McKinley	
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Ulysses S. Grant		<input checked="" type="radio"/> James Buchanan	
<input type="radio"/> Write-in _____		<input type="radio"/> Write-in _____	



















Rule A - Example 3b

In this example, the marks made on this ballot get smaller with each race, an implication of ‘voter fatigue’. All of the marks are in the target area and are valid votes.

Sample Precinct Ballot Code 4 Leg Dist: 14		Official Ballot - Sample County, WA General Election November 6, 2222	
INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS: Fill in the square next to your choice. VOTE LIKE THIS: 			
IF YOU MAKE A MISTAKE: Draw a line through the entire candidate's name like this:  George Washington You then have the option of making another choice if you wish.			
State Representative District 14, Position #1		State Representative District 14, Position #2	
 Teddy Roosevelt	 John Quincy Adams		
 Rutherford B. Hayes	 Dwight D. Eisenhower		
 William Henry Harrison	 Franklin D. Roosevelt		
 Write-in _____	 Write-in _____		
Englewood Fire District Commissioner		Water District 12 Commissioner	
 Martin Van Buren	 James Monroe		
 Zachary Taylor	 William McKinley		
 Ulysses S. Grant	 James Buchanan		
 Write-in _____	 Write-in _____		



















Rule A - Example 3c

In this example, the marks made on this ballot get smaller with each race, an implication of ‘voter fatigue’. All of the marks are in the target area and are valid votes.

Sample Precinct Ballot Code 4 Leg Dist: 14		Official Ballot - Sample County, WA General Election November 6, 2222	
INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS: Connect the arrow with a line pointing to your choice, LIKE THIS: 			
IF YOU MAKE A MISTAKE: Draw a line through the entire candidate's name like this:  John Doe You then have the option of making another choice if you wish.			
State Representative District 14, Position #1		State Representative District 14, Position #2	
Teddy Roosevelt		John Quincy Adams	
Rutherford B. Hayes		Dwight D. Eisenhower	
William Henry Harrison		Franklin D. Roosevelt	
Write-in _____		Write-in _____	
Englewood Fire District Commissioner		Water District 12 Commissioner	
Martin Van Buren		James Monroe	
Zachary Taylor		William McKinley	
Ulysses S. Grant		James Buchanan	
Write-in _____		Write-in _____	

Rule A, Exception 1 - Example 1a

In this example, the mark near Ulysses S. Grant's name is a stray mark and shall not be counted as a valid vote, even though it is in the target area of a candidate. Only the votes for Roosevelt and Eisenhower are valid votes.

Sample Precinct Ballot Code 4 Leg Dist: 14		Official Ballot - Sample County, WA General Election November 6, 2222	
INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS: Fill in the oval next to your choice. VOTE LIKE THIS: 			
IF YOU MAKE A MISTAKE: Draw a line through the entire candidate's name like this:  George Washington You then have the option of making another choice if you wish.			
State Representative District 14, Position #1		State Representative District 14, Position #2	
 Teddy Roosevelt		 John Quincy Adams	
 Rutherford B. Hayes		 Dwight D. Eisenhower	
 William Henry Harrison		 Franklin D. Roosevelt	
 Write-in _____		 Write-in _____	
Englewood Fire District Commissioner		Water District 12 Commissioner	
 Martin Van Buren		 James Monroe	
 Zachary Taylor		 William McKinley	
 Ulysses S. Grant		 James Buchanan	
 Write-in _____		 Write-in _____	



















Rule A, Exception 1 - Example 1b

In this example, the mark is a stray mark and shall not be counted as a valid vote, even though it is in the target area of a candidate. Only the votes for Hayes and Adams are valid votes.

Sample Precinct Ballot Code 4 Leg Dist: 14		Official Ballot - Sample County, WA General Election November 6, 2222	
INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS: Fill in the square next to your choice. VOTE LIKE THIS: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
IF YOU MAKE A MISTAKE: Draw a line through the entire candidate's name like this: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> George Washington You then have the option of making another choice if you wish.			
State Representative District 14, Position #1		State Representative District 14, Position #2	
<input type="checkbox"/> Teddy Roosevelt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> John Quincy Adams		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rutherford B. Hayes	<input type="checkbox"/> Dwight D. Eisenhower		
<input type="checkbox"/> William Henry Harrison	<input type="checkbox"/> Franklin D. Roosevelt		
<input type="checkbox"/> Write-in _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Write-in _____		
Englewood Fire District Commissioner		Water District 12 Commissioner	
<input type="checkbox"/> Martin Van Buren	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> James Monroe		
<input type="checkbox"/> Zachary Taylor	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> William McKinley		
<input type="checkbox"/> Ulysses S. Grant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> James Buchanan		
<input type="checkbox"/> Write-in _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Write-in _____		

Rule A, Exception 1 - Example 1c

In this example, the mark in the target area of James Buchanan is a stray mark and shall not be counted as a valid vote. The vote shall be tabulated as a vote for Monroe for Water District 12 Commissioner.

Sample Precinct Ballot Code 4 Leg Dist: 14		Official Ballot - Sample County, WA General Election November 6, 2222	
INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS: Connect the arrow with a line pointing to your choice, LIKE THIS: 			
IF YOU MAKE A MISTAKE: Draw a line through the entire candidate's name like this:  John Doe You then have the option of making another choice if you wish.			
State Representative District 14, Position #1		State Representative District 14, Position #2	
Teddy Roosevelt		John Quincy Adams	
Rutherford B. Hayes		Dwight D. Eisenhower	
William Henry Harrison		Franklin D. Roosevelt	
Write-in _____		Write-in _____	
Englewood Fire District Commissioner		Water District 12 Commissioner	
Martin Van Buren		James Monroe	
Zachary Taylor		William McKinley	
Ulysses S. Grant		James Buchanan	
Write-in _____		Write-in _____	

Rule A, Exception 1 - Examples 2a-c

In the following examples, the voter has stricken a candidate's name and it extends into the target area. These are stray marks and shall not be counted as valid votes.

2a.

State Representative District 14, Position #1	
<input type="radio"/>	Teddy Roosevelt
<input type="radio"/>	Rutherford B. Hayes
<input type="radio"/>	William Henry Harrison
<input type="radio"/>	Write-in _____

2b.

State Representative District 14, Position #1	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Teddy Roosevelt
<input type="checkbox"/>	Rutherford B. Hayes
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	William Henry Harrison
<input type="checkbox"/>	Write-in _____





2c.

State Representative District 14, Position #1	
Teddy Roosevelt	←
Rutherford B. Hayes	←
William Henry Harrison	←
Write-in _____	←





Rule A, Exception 2 - Examples 1a-c

In the following examples, the marks in the target area of Rutherford B. Hayes are hesitation marks, and shall not be counted as valid votes. The races are therefore not overvoted and shall all be counted as valid votes for Roosevelt.


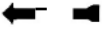


1a.

State Representative District 14, Position #1	
	Teddy Roosevelt
	Rutherford B. Hayes
	William Henry Harrison
	Write-in _____

1b.

State Representative District 14, Position #1	
	Teddy Roosevelt
	Rutherford B. Hayes
	William Henry Harrison
	Write-in _____

1c.

State Representative District 14, Position #1	
Teddy Roosevelt	
Rutherford B. Hayes	
William Henry Harrison	
Write-in _____	

Rule A, Exception 3 - Example 1a

In this example, the marks that extend into the target areas are parts of written notes on the ballot. None of the marks shall count as valid votes.

Sample Precinct Ballot Code 4 Leg Dist: 14		Official Ballot - Sample County, WA General Election November 6, 2222	
INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS: Fill in the oval next to your choice. VOTE LIKE THIS: ●			
IF YOU MAKE A MISTAKE: Draw a line through the entire candidate's name like this: ● George Washington You then have the option of making another choice if you wish.			
State Representative District 14, Position #1		State Representative District 14, Position #2	
<input type="radio"/> Teddy Roosevelt	<i>Handwritten: I vote for me</i>	<input type="radio"/> John Quincy Adams	<i>Handwritten: I vote for me</i>
<input type="radio"/> Rutherford B. Hayes		<input type="radio"/> Dwight D. Eisenhower	
<input type="radio"/> William Henry Harrison		<input type="radio"/> Franklin D. Roosevelt	
<input type="radio"/> Write-in _____		<input type="radio"/> Write-in _____	
Englewood Fire District Commissioner		Water District 12 Commissioner	
<input type="radio"/> Martin Van Buren	<i>Handwritten: I vote for me</i>	<input type="radio"/> James Monroe	<i>Handwritten: I vote for me</i>
<input type="radio"/> Zachary Taylor		<input type="radio"/> William McKinley	
<input type="radio"/> Ulysses S. Grant		<input type="radio"/> James Buchanan	
<input type="radio"/> Write-in _____		<input type="radio"/> Write-in _____	

Rule A, Exception 3 - Example 1b

In this example, the marks that extend into the target areas are parts of written notes on the ballot. None of the marks shall count as valid votes.

Sample Precinct Ballot Code 4 Leg Dist: 14		Official Ballot - Sample County, WA General Election November 6, 2222	
INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS: Fill in the square next to your choice. VOTE LIKE THIS: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
IF YOU MAKE A MISTAKE: Draw a line through the entire candidate's name like this: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> George Washington You then have the option of making another choice if you wish.			
State Representative District 14, Position #1		State Representative District 14, Position #2	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Teddy Roosevelt		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> John Quincy Adams	
<input type="checkbox"/> Rutherford B. Hayes		<input type="checkbox"/> Dwight D. Eisenhower	
<input type="checkbox"/> William Henry Harrison		<input type="checkbox"/> Franklin D. Roosevelt	
<input type="checkbox"/> Write-in _____		<input type="checkbox"/> Write-in _____	
Englewood Fire District Commissioner		Water District 12 Commissioner	
<input type="checkbox"/> Martin Van Buren		<input type="checkbox"/> James Monroe	
<input type="checkbox"/> Zachary Taylor		<input type="checkbox"/> William McKinley	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ulysses S. Grant		<input type="checkbox"/> James Buchanan	
<input type="checkbox"/> Write-in _____		<input type="checkbox"/> Write-in _____	

Rule A, Exception 3 - Example 1c

In this example, the marks that extend into the target areas are parts of written notes on the ballot. None of the marks shall count as valid votes.

Sample Precinct Ballot Code 4 Leg Dist: 14		Official Ballot - Sample County, WA General Election November 6, 2222	
INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS: Connect the arrow with a line pointing to your choice, LIKE THIS: ←			
IF YOU MAKE A MISTAKE: Draw a line through the entire candidate's name like this: ← John Doe ← You then have the option of making another choice if you wish.			
State Representative District 14, Position #1		State Representative District 14, Position #2	
Teddy Roosevelt ←	John Quincy Adams ←	<i>I am election people for the ballot</i>	
Rutherford B. Hayes ←	Dwight D. Eisenhower ←		
William Henry Harrison ←	Franklin D. Roosevelt ←		
Write-in ←	Write-in ←		
Englewood Fire District Commissioner		Water District 12 Commissioner	
Martin Van Buren ←	James Monroe ←	<i>I thank you for not to vote</i>	
Zachary Taylor ←	William McKinley ←		
Ulysses S. Grant ←	James Buchanan ←		
Write-in ←	Write-in ←		
<i>but I prefer time surely</i>			
<i>B. Adams</i>			

Rule B - Consistent Pattern

Marks made outside of the target area shall only be counted as valid votes if a consistent pattern of marks is used throughout the whole ballot. This means that all races and issues for which the voter has indicated a choice must have the same mark.

If some marks are in the target area and some are not, but the same *type* of mark is used throughout the whole ballot, they shall all be counted as valid votes.

Rule B - Example 1a

In this example, all marks are made outside of the target area in a consistent pattern. All votes in this example shall be counted as valid.

Sample Precinct Ballot Code 4 Leg Dist: 14		Official Ballot - Sample County, WA General Election November 6, 2222	
INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS: Fill in the oval next to your choice. VOTE LIKE THIS: ●			
IF YOU MAKE A MISTAKE: Draw a line through the entire candidate's name like this: ● George Washington You then have the option of making another choice if you wish.			
State Representative District 14, Position #1		State Representative District 14, Position #2	
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Teddy Roosevelt <input type="radio"/> Rutherford B. Hayes <input type="radio"/> William Henry Harrison <input type="radio"/> Write-in _____		<input type="radio"/> John Quincy Adams <input type="radio"/> Dwight D. Eisenhower <input checked="" type="radio"/> Franklin D. Roosevelt <input type="radio"/> Write-in _____	
Englewood Fire District Commissioner		Water District 12 Commissioner	
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Martin Van Buren <input type="radio"/> Zachary Taylor <input type="radio"/> Ulysses S. Grant <input type="radio"/> Write-in _____		<input type="radio"/> James Monroe <input checked="" type="radio"/> William McKinley <input type="radio"/> James Buchanan <input type="radio"/> Write-in _____	

Rule B - Example 1b

In this example, all marks are made outside of the target area in a consistent pattern. All votes in this example shall be counted as valid.

Sample Precinct Ballot Code 4 Leg Dist: 14		Official Ballot - Sample County, WA General Election November 6, 2222	
INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS: Fill in the square next to your choice. VOTE LIKE THIS: <input type="checkbox"/>			
IF YOU MAKE A MISTAKE: Draw a line through the entire candidate's name like this: <input type="checkbox"/> George Washington You then have the option of making another choice if you wish.			
State Representative District 14, Position #1		State Representative District 14, Position #2	
<input type="checkbox"/> Teddy Roosevelt (States No Party Preference)	<input type="checkbox"/> John Quincy Adams (Prefers <u>Republican</u> Party)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Rutherford B. Hayes (Prefers <u>Republican</u> Party)	<input type="checkbox"/> Dwight D. Eisenhower (Prefers Democratic Party)		
<input type="checkbox"/> William Henry Harrison (Prefers Democratic Party)	<input type="checkbox"/> Franklin D. Roosevelt (States No Party Preference)		
<input type="checkbox"/> _____ Write-in	<input type="checkbox"/> _____ Write-in		
Englewood Fire District Commissioner		Water District 12 Commissioner	
<input type="checkbox"/> Martin Van Buren (Prefers <u>Democratic</u> Party)	<input type="checkbox"/> James Monroe (Prefers <u>Democratic</u> Party)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Zachary Taylor (Prefers Republican Party)	<input type="checkbox"/> William McKinley (Prefers Republican Party)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Ulysses S. Grant (States No Party Preference)	<input type="checkbox"/> James Buchanan (States No Party Preference)		
<input type="checkbox"/> _____ Write-in	<input type="checkbox"/> _____ Write-in		

Rule B - Example 1c

In this example, all marks are made outside of the target area in a consistent pattern. All votes in this example shall be counted as valid.

Sample Precinct Ballot Code 4 Leg Dist: 14		Official Ballot - Sample County, WA General Election November 6, 2222	
INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS: Connect the arrow with a line pointing to your choice, LIKE THIS: ←			
IF YOU MAKE A MISTAKE: Draw a line through the entire candidate's name like this: ← John Doe ← You then have the option of making another choice if you wish.			
State Representative District 14, Position #1		State Representative District 14, Position #2	
Teddy Roosevelt ←	John Quincy Adams ←	Dwight D. Eisenhower ←	
Rutherford B. Hayes ←	Franklin D. Roosevelt ←		
William Henry Harrison ←			
Write-in ←			
Englewood Fire District Commissioner		Water District 12 Commissioner	
Martin Van Buren ←	James Monroe ←		
Zachary Taylor ←	William McKinley ←		
Ulysses S. Grant ←	James Buchanan ←		
Write-in ←			

Rule B - Example 2a

In this example, the voter has made the same mark throughout the ballot, some of which are outside of the target area. Because all of the marks are the same for every race, all votes on this ballot shall be counted as valid.

Sample Precinct Ballot Code 4 Leg Dist: 14		Official Ballot - Sample County, WA General Election November 6, 2222	
INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS: Fill in the oval next to your choice. VOTE LIKE THIS: ●			
IF YOU MAKE A MISTAKE: Draw a line through the entire candidate's name like this: ● George Washington You then have the option of making another choice if you wish.			
State Representative District 14, Position #1		State Representative District 14, Position #2	
<input type="radio"/> Teddy Roosevelt		<input type="radio"/> John Quincy Adams	
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Rutherford B. Hayes		<input type="radio"/> Dwight D. Eisenhower	
<input type="radio"/> William Henry Harrison		<input checked="" type="radio"/> Franklin D. Roosevelt	
<input type="radio"/> Write-in _____		<input type="radio"/> Write-in _____	
Englewood Fire District Commissioner		Water District 12 Commissioner	
<input type="radio"/> Martin Van Buren		<input type="radio"/> James Monroe	
<input type="radio"/> Zachary Taylor		<input type="radio"/> William McKinley	
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Ulysses S. Grant		<input checked="" type="radio"/> James Buchanan	
<input type="radio"/> Write-in _____		<input type="radio"/> Write-in _____	

Rule B - Example 2b

In this example, the voter has made the same mark throughout the ballot, some of which are outside of the target area. Because all of the marks are the same for every race, all votes on this ballot shall be counted as valid.

Sample Precinct Ballot Code 4 Leg Dist: 14		Official Ballot - Sample County, WA General Election November 6, 2222	
INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS: Fill in the square next to your choice. VOTE LIKE THIS: <input type="checkbox"/>			
IF YOU MAKE A MISTAKE: Draw a line through the entire candidate's name like this: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> George Washington You then have the option of making another choice if you wish.			
State Representative District 14, Position #1		State Representative District 14, Position #2	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Teddy Roosevelt	<input type="checkbox"/> John Quincy Adams		
<input type="checkbox"/> Rutherford B. Hayes	<input type="checkbox"/> Dwight D. Eisenhower		
<input type="checkbox"/> William Henry Harrison	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Franklin D. Roosevelt		
<input type="checkbox"/> Write-in _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Write-in _____		
Englewood Fire District Commissioner		Water District 12 Commissioner	
<input type="checkbox"/> Martin Van Buren	<input type="checkbox"/> James Monroe		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Zachary Taylor	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> William McKinley		
<input type="checkbox"/> Ulysses S. Grant	<input type="checkbox"/> James Buchanan		
<input type="checkbox"/> Write-in _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Write-in _____		

Rule B - Example 2c

In this example, the voter has made the same mark throughout the ballot, some of which are outside of the target area. Because all of the marks are the same for every race, all votes on this ballot shall be counted as valid.

Sample Precinct Ballot Code 4 Leg Dist: 14		Official Ballot - Sample County, WA General Election November 6, 2222	
INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS: Connect the arrow with a line pointing to your choice, LIKE THIS: ← →			
IF YOU MAKE A MISTAKE: Draw a line through the entire candidate's name like this: ← → John Doe You then have the option of making another choice if you wish.			
State Representative District 14, Position #1		State Representative District 14, Position #2	
Teddy Roosevelt	← →	John Quincy Adams	← →
Rutherford B. Hayes	← →	Dwight D. Eisenhower	← →
William Henry Harrison	← →	Franklin D. Roosevelt	← →
Write-in	← →	Write-in	← →
Englewood Fire District Commissioner		Water District 12 Commissioner	
Martin Van Buren	← →	James Monroe	← →
Zachary Taylor	← →	William McKinley	← →
Ulysses S. Grant	← →	James Buchanan	← →
Write-in	← →	Write-in	← →

Rule B - Example 3a

In this example, there are marks made outside of the target area, but not in a consistent pattern throughout the whole ballot. Only the vote for Zachary Taylor counts as a valid vote, because it is marked in the target area.

Sample Precinct Ballot Code 4 Leg Dist: 14		Official Ballot - Sample County, WA General Election November 6, 2222	
INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS: Fill in the oval next to your choice. VOTE LIKE THIS: ●			
IF YOU MAKE A MISTAKE: Draw a line through the entire candidate's name like this: ● George Washington You then have the option of making another choice if you wish.			
State Representative District 14, Position #1		State Representative District 14, Position #2	
<input type="radio"/> Teddy Roosevelt		<input type="radio"/> John Quincy Adams	
<input type="radio"/> Rutherford B. Hayes		<input type="radio"/> Dwight D. Eisenhower	
<input type="radio"/> William Henry Harrison		✓ <input type="radio"/> Franklin D. Roosevelt	
<input type="radio"/> Write-in _____		<input type="radio"/> Write-in _____	
Englewood Fire District Commissioner		Water District 12 Commissioner	
<input type="radio"/> Martin Van Buren		<input type="radio"/> James Monroe	
● <input type="radio"/> Zachary Taylor		<input type="radio"/> William McKinley	
<input type="radio"/> Ulysses S. Grant		<input type="radio"/> James Buchanan	
<input type="radio"/> Write-in _____		<input type="radio"/> Write-in _____	






































Rule B - Example 3b

In this example, there are marks made outside of the target area, but not in a consistent pattern throughout the whole ballot. Only the vote for Zachary Taylor counts as a valid vote, because it is marked in the target area.

Sample Precinct Ballot Code 4 Leg Dist: 14		Official Ballot - Sample County, WA General Election November 6, 2222	
INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS: Fill in the square next to your choice. VOTE LIKE THIS: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
IF YOU MAKE A MISTAKE: Draw a line through the entire candidate's name like this: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> George Washington You then have the option of making another choice if you wish.			
State Representative District 14, Position #1		State Representative District 14, Position #2	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Teddy Roosevelt		<input type="checkbox"/> John Quincy Adams	
<input type="checkbox"/> Rutherford B. Hayes		<input type="checkbox"/> Dwight D. Eisenhower	
<input type="checkbox"/> William Henry Harrison		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Franklin D. Roosevelt	
<input type="checkbox"/> Write-in _____		<input type="checkbox"/> Write-in _____	
Englewood Fire District Commissioner		Water District 12 Commissioner	
<input type="checkbox"/> Martin Van Buren		<input type="checkbox"/> James Monroe	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Zachary Taylor		<input type="checkbox"/> William McKinley	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ulysses S. Grant		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> James Buchanan	
<input type="checkbox"/> Write-in _____		<input type="checkbox"/> Write-in _____	

Rule B - Example 3c

In this example, there are marks made outside of the target area, but not in a consistent pattern throughout the whole ballot. Only the vote for Zachary Taylor counts as a valid vote, because it is marked in the target area.

Sample Precinct Ballot Code 4 Leg Dist: 14		Official Ballot - Sample County, WA General Election November 6, 2222	
INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS: Connect the arrow with a line pointing to your choice, LIKE THIS: 			
IF YOU MAKE A MISTAKE: Draw a line through the entire candidate's name like this:  John Doe You then have the option of making another choice if you wish.			
State Representative District 14, Position #1		State Representative District 14, Position #2	
 Teddy Roosevelt  		John Quincy Adams  	
Rutherford B. Hayes  		Dwight D. Eisenhower  	
William Henry Harrison  		 Franklin D. Roosevelt  	
Write-in  		Write-in  	
Englewood Fire District Commissioner		Water District 12 Commissioner	
Martin Van Buren  		James Monroe   	
Zachary Taylor  		William McKinley  	
Ulysses S. Grant  		James Buchanan  	
Write-in  		Write-in  	

Rule C - Corrected Votes

If the voter has followed the instructions for correcting a vote, the stricken vote shall not be counted.

**If a second choice is marked, it shall be counted as a valid vote.
If a second choice is not marked, the race shall be considered undervoted.**

If the voter has marked two target areas and placed an 'X' over one of the marked areas, the choice without the 'X' shall be counted as a valid vote.

Rule C - Examples 1a-c

In the following examples, the voter has followed the instructions for correcting a vote. In each example, the vote for William Henry Harrison is the valid vote.

1a.

State Representative District 14, Position #1	
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Teddy Roosevelt
<input type="radio"/>	Rutherford B. Hayes
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	William Henry Harrison
<input type="radio"/>	Write-in _____

1b.

State Representative District 14, Position #1	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Teddy Roosevelt
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rutherford B. Hayes
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	William Henry Harrison
<input type="checkbox"/>	Write-in _____

1c.

State Representative District 14, Position #1	
Teddy Roosevelt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rutherford B. Hayes	<input type="checkbox"/>
William Henry Harrison	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Write-in _____	<input type="checkbox"/>

Rule C - Examples 2a-c

In the following examples, the voter has followed the instructions for correcting a vote. In each example, the race is considered undervoted and no votes will be tallied.

2a.

State Representative District 14, Position #1	
<input type="radio"/>	Teddy Roosevelt
<input type="radio"/>	Rutherford B. Hayes
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	William Henry Harrison
<input type="radio"/>	Write-in _____

2b.

State Representative District 14, Position #1	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Teddy Roosevelt
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rutherford B. Hayes
<input type="checkbox"/>	William Henry Harrison
<input type="checkbox"/>	Write-in _____





2c.

State Representative District 14, Position #1	
Teddy Roosevelt	←
Rutherford B. Hayes	←
William Henry Harrison	←
Write-in _____	←





Rule C - Examples 3a-c

In the following examples, the voter has marked two target areas and also placed an 'X' over one of the marked areas. The choice without the 'X' is the valid vote; in each example, the vote for William Henry Harrison is the valid vote.





3a.

State Representative District 14, Position #1	
	Teddy Roosevelt
	Rutherford B. Hayes
	William Henry Harrison
	Write-in _____

3b.

State Representative District 14, Position #1	
	Teddy Roosevelt
	Rutherford B. Hayes
	William Henry Harrison
	Write-in _____





3c.

State Representative District 14, Position #1	
Teddy Roosevelt	
Rutherford B. Hayes	
William Henry Harrison	
Write-in _____	





Rule C - Examples 4a and 4b

In examples 4 a and b, the race is considered undervoted and no votes for any candidates will be tallied.

4a.

State Representative District 14, Position #1	
	Teddy Roosevelt
	Rutherford B. Hayes
	William Henry Harrison
	Write-in _____




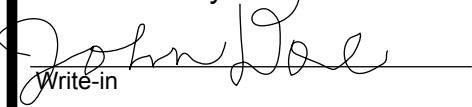
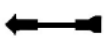
4b.

State Representative District 14, Position #1	
	Teddy Roosevelt
	Rutherford B. Hayes
	William Henry Harrison
	Write-in _____



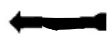
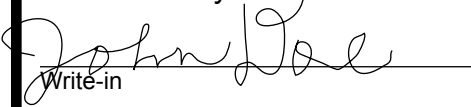

Rule C - Examples 4c and 4d

In examples 4 c and d, the write-in vote for John Doe is the valid vote.

4c.

State Representative District 14, Position #1	
Teddy Roosevelt	
Rutherford B. Hayes	
William Henry Harrison	
 Write-in	

4d.

State Representative District 14, Position #1	
Teddy Roosevelt	
Rutherford B. Hayes	
William Henry Harrison	
 Write-in	

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Rule D - Not a Correction

If the voter has both marked a choice correctly and *also* placed an ‘X’ in the same target area, but has not marked a second target area as if attempting to correct the vote, it shall be counted as a valid vote.

Rule D - Examples 1a-c

The following examples are all valid votes for William Henry Harrison.

1a.

State Representative District 14, Position #1	
<input type="radio"/>	Teddy Roosevelt
<input type="radio"/>	Rutherford B. Hayes
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	William Henry Harrison
<input type="radio"/>	Write-in _____

1b.

State Representative District 14, Position #1	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Teddy Roosevelt
<input type="checkbox"/>	Rutherford B. Hayes
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	William Henry Harrison
<input type="checkbox"/>	Write-in _____

1c.

State Representative District 14, Position #1	
Teddy Roosevelt	← →
Rutherford B. Hayes	← →
William Henry Harrison	← →
Write-in _____	← →

Rule D - Example 1d

The following ballot contains a valid vote for the proposition.

Sample Precinct
Ballot Code 4
Leg Dist: 14

Official Ballot - Sample County, WA General Election November 6, 2222

- INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS: Fill in the oval next to your choice. VOTE LIKE THIS: ☒
- IF YOU MAKE A MISTAKE: Draw a line through the entire candidate's name like this: ☒ ~~George Washington~~
You then have the option of making another choice if you wish.

Proposition No. 1 City of Angles School District Capital Projects Technology Levy

The Board of Directors of the City of Angles School District No. 1235 adopted Resolution No. 12345-11 concerning a proposition to finance educational technology equipment improvements within the District. If passed, Proposition No. 1 would authorize the District to levy the following excess taxes upon all taxable property within the District in order to acquire, install and provide training in connection with educational technology equipment improvements:

Should this proposition be approved?

Levy Collection Years	Approximate Levy Rate per \$1,000 of Assessed Value	Levy Amount
2008 / 2009	\$0.46	\$1,635,700
2009 / 2010	\$0.44	\$1,643,248
2010 / 2011	\$0.41	\$1,643,171
2011 / 2012	\$0.39	\$1,642,972

Should Proposition No. 1 be approved or rejected?

☒ LEVY Yes
☐ LEVY No

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Rule E - Written Instructions

If the voter has attempted to correct a vote and provides written instruction on his or her intent, it shall be counted as the voter instructed. Written instruction includes words, circles, or arrows.

Rule E - Examples 1a-c

In the following examples, the voter has attempted to correct a vote and provided written instruction on how it should be counted. In the following examples, the vote for Rutherford B. Hayes is the valid vote.

1a.

State Representative District 14, Position #1	
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Teddy Roosevelt
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Rutherford B. Hayes
<input type="radio"/>	William Henry Harrison
<input type="radio"/>	Write-in _____

1b.

State Representative District 14, Position #1	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Teddy Roosevelt YES
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rutherford B. Hayes
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	William Henry Harrison NO
<input type="checkbox"/>	Write-in _____

1c.

State Representative District 14, Position #1	
Teddy Roosevelt	← —
Rutherford B. Hayes	← —
William Henry Harrison	← —
Write-in _____	← —



This ONE →

Rule F - Identifying Marks

Ballots that have a legible signature, address sticker, or address stamp anywhere on the ballot, other than on the write-in line, must be rejected. The presence of initials or illegible signatures does not disqualify a ballot.

Rule F - Example 1a

The following example contains a legible signature not on the write-in line. The entire ballot must be rejected.

Sample Precinct Ballot Code 4 Leg Dist: 14		Official Ballot - Sample County, WA General Election November 6, 2222	
<p>INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS: Fill in the oval next to your choice. VOTE LIKE THIS:  <i>George Groves</i></p> <p>IF YOU MAKE A MISTAKE: Draw a line through the entire candidate's name like this:  George Washington</p> <p>You then have the option of making another choice if you wish.</p>			
State Representative District 14, Position #1		State Representative District 14, Position #2	
<p><input type="radio"/> Teddy Roosevelt</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Rutherford B. Hayes</p> <p><input checked="" type="radio"/> William Henry Harrison</p> <p><input type="radio"/> _____ Write-in</p>		<p><input checked="" type="radio"/> John Quincy Adams</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Dwight D. Eisenhower</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Franklin D. Roosevelt</p> <p><input type="radio"/> _____ Write-in</p>	
Englewood Fire District Commissioner		Water District 12 Commissioner	
<p><input checked="" type="radio"/> Martin Van Buren</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Zachary Taylor</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Ulysses S. Grant</p> <p><input type="radio"/> _____ Write-in</p>		<p><input type="radio"/> James Monroe</p> <p><input type="radio"/> William McKinley</p> <p><input checked="" type="radio"/> James Buchanan</p> <p><input type="radio"/> _____ Write-in</p>	

Rule F - Example 1b

The following example contains a legible signature not on the write-in line. The entire ballot must be rejected.

Sample Precinct Ballot Code 4 Leg Dist: 14		Official Ballot - Sample County, WA General Election November 6, 2222	
INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS: Fill in the square next to your choice. VOTE LIKE THIS: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
IF YOU MAKE A MISTAKE: Draw a line through the entire candidate's name like this: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> George Washington You then have the option of making another choice if you wish.			
State Representative District 14, Position #1		State Representative District 14, Position #2	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Teddy Roosevelt	<input type="checkbox"/> John Quincy Adams		
<input type="checkbox"/> Rutherford B. Hayes	<input type="checkbox"/> Dwight D. Eisenhower		
<input type="checkbox"/> William Henry Harrison	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Franklin D. Roosevelt		
<input type="checkbox"/> Write-in _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Write-in _____		
<i>Mrs. Harriett Markleberry</i>			
Englewood Fire District Commissioner		Water District 12 Commissioner	
<input type="checkbox"/> Martin Van Buren	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> James Monroe		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Zachary Taylor	<input type="checkbox"/> William McKinley		
<input type="checkbox"/> Ulysses S. Grant	<input type="checkbox"/> James Buchanan		
<input type="checkbox"/> Write-in _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Write-in _____		


Rule F - Example 1c

The following example contains a legible signature not on the write-in line. The entire ballot must be rejected.

Sample Precinct Ballot Code 4 Leg Dist: 14		Official Ballot - Sample County, WA General Election November 6, 2222	
INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS: Connect the arrow with a line pointing to your choice, LIKE THIS: ←			
IF YOU MAKE A MISTAKE: Draw a line through the entire candidate's name like this: ← John Doe ← You then have the option of making another choice if you wish.			
State Representative District 14, Position #1		State Representative District 14, Position #2	
Teddy Roosevelt ←	John Quincy Adams ←		
Rutherford B. Hayes ←	Dwight D. Eisenhower ←		
William Henry Harrison ←	Franklin D. Roosevelt ←		
Write-in ←	Write-in ←		
Englewood Fire District Commissioner		Water District 12 Commissioner	
Martin Van Buren ←	James Monroe ←		
Zachary Taylor ←	William McKinley ←		
Ulysses S. Grant ←	James Buchanan ←		
Write-in ←	Write-in ←		
<i>Please change my address</i> <i>George Smith</i>			



















Rule F - Example 2a

In this example, the voter has placed an address sticker or stamp on the ballot. The entire ballot must be rejected.

Sample Precinct Ballot Code 4 Leg Dist: 14		Official Ballot - Sample County, WA General Election November 6, 2222	
INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS: Fill in the square next to your choice. VOTE LIKE THIS: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
IF YOU MAKE A MISTAKE: Draw a line through the entire candidate's name like this: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> George Washington You then have the option of making another choice if you wish.			
<div>John Smith 123 Happy St. NE Happy Town, USA</div> 		State Representative District 14, Position #2	
<input type="checkbox"/> Teddy Roosevelt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> John Quincy Adams		
<input type="checkbox"/> Rutherford B. Hayes	<input type="checkbox"/> Dwight D. Eisenhower		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> William Henry Harrison	<input type="checkbox"/> Franklin D. Roosevelt		
<input type="checkbox"/> Write-in _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Write-in _____		
Englewood Fire District Commissioner		Water District 12 Commissioner	
<input type="checkbox"/> Martin Van Buren	<input type="checkbox"/> James Monroe		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Zachary Taylor	<input type="checkbox"/> William McKinley		
<input type="checkbox"/> Ulysses S. Grant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> James Buchanan		
<input type="checkbox"/> Write-in _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Write-in _____		

Rule F - Example 3a

The following example contains an illegible signature. This will NOT disqualify the ballot.

Sample Precinct Ballot Code 4 Leg Dist: 14		Official Ballot - Sample County, WA General Election November 6, 2222	
INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS: Fill in the oval next to your choice. VOTE LIKE THIS: 			
IF YOU MAKE A MISTAKE: Draw a line through the entire candidate's name like this:  George Washington You then have the option of making another choice if you wish.			
State Representative District 14, Position #1		State Representative District 14, Position #2	
 Teddy Roosevelt		 John Quincy Adams	
 Rutherford B. Hayes		 Dwight D. Eisenhower	
 William Henry Harrison		 Franklin D. Roosevelt	
 Write-in _____		 Write-in _____	
Englewood Fire District Commissioner		Water District 12 Commissioner	
 Martin Van Buren		 James Monroe	
 Zachary Taylor		 William McKinley	
 Ulysses S. Grant		 James Buchanan	
 Write-in _____		 Write-in _____	

count my votes!!!!!!!!!!
John F. Kennedy

Rule F - Example 4a

The following example has initials on its face. This will NOT disqualify the ballot.

Sample Precinct Ballot Code 4 Leg Dist: 14		Official Ballot - Sample County, WA General Election November 6, 2222	
INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS: Fill in the square next to your choice. VOTE LIKE THIS: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
IF YOU MAKE A MISTAKE: Draw a line through the entire candidate's name like this: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> George Washington You then have the option of making another choice if you wish.			
State Representative District 14, Position #1		State Representative District 14, Position #2	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Teddy Roosevelt	<input type="checkbox"/> John Quincy Adams		
<input type="checkbox"/> Rutherford B. Hayes	<input type="checkbox"/> Dwight D. Eisenhower		
<input type="checkbox"/> William Henry Harrison	<input type="checkbox"/> Franklin D. Roosevelt		
<input type="checkbox"/> Write-in _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Write-in _____		
Englewood Fire District Commissioner		Water District 12 Commissioner	
<input type="checkbox"/> Martin Van Buren	<input type="checkbox"/> James Monroe		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Zachary Taylor	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> William McKinley		
<input type="checkbox"/> Ulysses S. Grant	<input type="checkbox"/> James Buchanan		
<input type="checkbox"/> Write-in _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Write-in _____		

Rule F - Example 4b

The following example has initials on its face. This will NOT disqualify the ballot.

Sample Precinct Ballot Code 4 Leg Dist: 14		Official Ballot - Sample County, WA General Election November 6, 2222	
INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS: Connect the arrow with a line pointing to your choice, LIKE THIS: ←			
IF YOU MAKE A MISTAKE: Draw a line through the entire candidate's name like this: ← John Doe ← You then have the option of making another choice if you wish.			
State Representative District 14, Position #1		State Representative District 14, Position #2	
Teddy Roosevelt	←	John Quincy Adams	←
Rutherford B. Hayes	←	Dwight D. Eisenhower	←
William Henry Harrison	←	Franklin D. Roosevelt	←
Write-in	←	Write-in	←
Englewood Fire District Commissioner		Water District 12 Commissioner	
Martin Van Buren	←	James Monroe	←
Zachary Taylor	←	William McKinley	←
Ulysses S. Grant	←	James Buchanan	←
Write-in	←	Write-in	←

*I changed my mind and don't want to
vote for water district commissioner.*

Sorry!

JR

Rule G - Overvotes

Races or issues that have more target areas marked than are allowed are overvotes. No votes for that race or issue shall be counted.

Exceptions to Rule G:

Exception 1. Write-in votes for a candidate already on the ballot

For examples, see Rule I on page 54.

Rule G - Examples 1a-c

The following examples have more target areas marked than is allowed. These shall all be tallied as overvotes, not valid votes for any candidate.

1a.

State Representative District 14, Position #1	
<input type="radio"/>	Teddy Roosevelt
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Rutherford B. Hayes
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	William Henry Harrison
<input type="radio"/>	Write-in _____

1b.

State Representative District 14, Position #1	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Teddy Roosevelt
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rutherford B. Hayes
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	William Henry Harrison
<input type="checkbox"/>	Write-in _____

1c.

State Representative District 14, Position #1	
Teddy Roosevelt	←
Rutherford B. Hayes	←
William Henry Harrison	←
Write-in _____	←

Rule H - No Bubble

If a name is written on a write-in line, it shall be counted as a valid write-in vote regardless of whether the corresponding target area is marked.

Rule H - Examples 1a-c

All of the following examples are valid votes for Joe Thomas.

1a.

State Representative District 14, Position #1	
<input type="radio"/>	Teddy Roosevelt
<input type="radio"/>	Rutherford B. Hayes
<input type="radio"/>	William Henry Harrison
<input type="radio"/>	<u>Joe Thomas</u> Write-in

1b.

State Representative District 14, Position #1	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Teddy Roosevelt
<input type="checkbox"/>	Rutherford B. Hayes
<input type="checkbox"/>	William Henry Harrison
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>Joe Thomas</u> Write-in

1c.

State Representative District 14, Position #1	
Teddy Roosevelt	← <input type="checkbox"/>
Rutherford B. Hayes	← <input type="checkbox"/>
William Henry Harrison	← <input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Joe Thomas</u> Write-in	← <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Rule I - Already on the Ballot

If the name of a candidate who is already printed on the ballot is written in, that vote shall not be tallied as an overvote, but shall be counted as a valid vote for the printed candidate. This applies even if both target areas are marked or no target areas are marked.

Rule I - Examples 1a-d

All of the following examples are valid votes for Rutherford B. Hayes.

1a.

State Representative District 14, Position #1	
<input type="radio"/>	Teddy Roosevelt
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Rutherford B. Hayes
<input type="radio"/>	William Henry Harrison
<input type="radio"/>	<u>Rutherford Hayes</u> Write-in

1b.

State Representative District 14, Position #1	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Teddy Roosevelt
<input type="checkbox"/>	Rutherford B. Hayes
<input type="checkbox"/>	William Henry Harrison
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>Rutherford Hayes</u> Write-in

1c.

State Representative District 14, Position #1	
Teddy Roosevelt	←
Rutherford B. Hayes	←
William Henry Harrison	←
<u>Rutherford Hayes</u> Write-in	←

1d.

State Representative District 14, Position #1	
<input type="radio"/>	Teddy Roosevelt
<input type="radio"/>	Rutherford B. Hayes
<input type="radio"/>	William Henry Harrison
<input type="radio"/>	<u>Rutherford Hayes</u> Write-in

Rule J - Name Variations

If a write-in vote is cast for a *declared* write-in candidate using a commonly recognizable nickname or spelling variation, it shall be counted as a valid vote for that candidate.

Rule J - Examples 1a-d

The following are valid votes for the declared write-in candidate Thomas Smith.

1a.

State Representative District 14, Position #1	
<input type="radio"/>	Teddy Roosevelt
<input type="radio"/>	Rutherford B. Hayes
<input type="radio"/>	William Henry Harrison
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<i>Thomas Smith</i> Write-in

1b.

State Representative District 14, Position #1	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Teddy Roosevelt
<input type="checkbox"/>	Rutherford B. Hayes
<input type="checkbox"/>	William Henry Harrison
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Tommy Smith</i> Write-in

1c.

State Representative District 14, Position #1	
Teddy Roosevelt	← →
Rutherford B. Hayes	← →
William Henry Harrison	← →
<i>Tom Smythe</i> Write-in	← →

1d.

State Representative District 14, Position #1	
<input type="radio"/>	Teddy Roosevelt
<input type="radio"/>	Rutherford B. Hayes
<input type="radio"/>	William Henry Harrison
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<i>Thom Smith</i> Write-in

Rule K - Mystery Write-In

If the write-in target area is marked, but no name is written on the line, it shall not be counted as a valid vote, even though it may be tallied as a write-in vote by the tabulation system.

Rule K - Examples 1a-d

The following are not valid votes and shall count for no candidate.

1a.

State Representative District 14, Position #1	
<input type="radio"/>	Teddy Roosevelt
<input type="radio"/>	Rutherford B. Hayes
<input type="radio"/>	William Henry Harrison
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Write-in _____

1b.

State Representative District 14, Position #1	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Teddy Roosevelt
<input type="checkbox"/>	Rutherford B. Hayes
<input type="checkbox"/>	William Henry Harrison
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Write-in _____

1c.

State Representative District 14, Position #1	
Teddy Roosevelt	← →
Rutherford B. Hayes	← →
William Henry Harrison	← →
Write-in _____	← →

1d.

State Representative District 14, Position #1	
<input type="radio"/>	Teddy Roosevelt
<input type="radio"/>	Rutherford B. Hayes
<input type="radio"/>	William Henry Harrison
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Write-in _____

Rule L - Mystery Write-In with a Candidate

If a candidate's target area is marked, AND the write-in target area is marked but no name is written on the line, it shall not be tallied as an overvote, but shall be counted as a valid vote for the printed candidate.

Rule L - Examples 1a-d

The following are valid votes for William Henry Harrison.

1a.

State Representative District 14, Position #1	
<input type="radio"/>	Teddy Roosevelt
<input type="radio"/>	Rutherford B. Hayes
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	William Henry Harrison
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Write-in _____

1b.

State Representative District 14, Position #1	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Teddy Roosevelt
<input type="checkbox"/>	Rutherford B. Hayes
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	William Henry Harrison
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Write-in _____

1c.

State Representative District 14, Position #1	
Teddy Roosevelt	← →
Rutherford B. Hayes	← →
William Henry Harrison	← →
Write-in _____	← →

1d.

State Representative District 14, Position #1	
<input type="radio"/>	Teddy Roosevelt
<input type="radio"/>	Rutherford B. Hayes
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	William Henry Harrison
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Write-in _____

Rule M - Name Combinations

If a write-in vote is cast for a candidate with a combination of names already on the ballot, it shall NOT be counted as a vote for either printed candidate, but rather shall be counted as a valid vote for the name as written.

Rule M - Examples 1a and b

The following are valid votes for Teddy Hayes.

1a.

State Representative District 14, Position #1	
<input type="radio"/>	Teddy Roosevelt
<input type="radio"/>	Rutherford B. Hayes
<input type="radio"/>	William Henry Harrison
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Teddy Hayes <small>Write-in</small>

1b.

State Representative District 14, Position #1	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Teddy Roosevelt
<input type="checkbox"/>	Rutherford B. Hayes
<input type="checkbox"/>	William Henry Harrison
<input type="checkbox"/>	Teddy Hayes <small>Write-in</small>

Rule M - Examples 1c and d

The following are valid votes for Bill Roosevelt.

1c.

State Representative District 14, Position #1	
Teddy Roosevelt	← →
Rutherford B. Hayes	← →
William Henry Harrison	← →
Bill Roosevelt <small>Write-in</small>	← →

1d.

State Representative District 14, Position #1	
<input type="radio"/>	Teddy Roosevelt
<input type="radio"/>	Rutherford B. Hayes
<input type="radio"/>	William Henry Harrison
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Bill Roosevelt <small>Write-in</small>

Rule N - Write-In Overvotes

If a candidate's target area is marked and something other than that candidate's name is written in the write-in response area, it shall be counted as an overvote and not a valid vote for any candidate. This applies whether or not the target area for the write-in is marked.

Rule N - Examples 1a-d

The following shall all be tallied as overvotes, and not a valid vote for any candidate.

1a.

State Representative District 14, Position #1	
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Teddy Roosevelt
<input type="radio"/>	Rutherford B. Hayes
<input type="radio"/>	William Henry Harrison
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<u>John Brown</u> Write-in

1b.

State Representative District 14, Position #1	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Teddy Roosevelt
<input type="checkbox"/>	Rutherford B. Hayes
<input type="checkbox"/>	William Henry Harrison
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>Sue Bee</u> Write-in

1c.

State Representative District 14, Position #1	
Teddy Roosevelt	← <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rutherford B. Hayes	← <input type="checkbox"/>
William Henry Harrison	← <input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Jeff Lyons</u> Write-in	← <input type="checkbox"/>

1d.

State Representative District 14, Position #1	
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Teddy Roosevelt
<input type="radio"/>	Rutherford B. Hayes
<input type="radio"/>	William Henry Harrison
<input type="radio"/>	<u>Leo Roosevelt</u> Write-in

Rule N - Examples 2a-d

The following shall all be tallied as overvotes, and not a valid vote for any candidate.

2a.

State Representative District 14, Position #1	
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Teddy Roosevelt
<input type="radio"/>	Rutherford B. Hayes
<input type="radio"/>	William Henry Harrison
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<i>Teddy Hayes</i> Write-in

2b.

State Representative District 14, Position #1	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Teddy Roosevelt
<input type="checkbox"/>	Rutherford B. Hayes
<input type="checkbox"/>	William Henry Harrison
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Teddy Hayes</i> Write-in

2c.

State Representative District 14, Position #1	
Teddy Roosevelt	← →
Rutherford B. Hayes	← →
William Henry Harrison	← →
<i>Teddy Hayes</i> Write-in	← →

2d.

State Representative District 14, Position #1	
<input type="radio"/>	Teddy Roosevelt
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Rutherford B. Hayes
<input type="radio"/>	William Henry Harrison
<input type="radio"/>	<i>Teddy Hayes</i> Write-in

Rule N - Examples 3a-d

The following shall all be tallied as overvotes, and not a valid vote for any candidate.


3a.

State Representative District 14, Position #1	
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Teddy Roosevelt
<input type="radio"/>	Rutherford B. Hayes
<input type="radio"/>	William Henry Harrison
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<u>Write-in Nobody</u>

3b.

State Representative District 14, Position #1	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Teddy Roosevelt
<input type="checkbox"/>	Rutherford B. Hayes
<input type="checkbox"/>	William Henry Harrison
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>Write-in Mickey Mouse</u>

3c.

State Representative District 14, Position #1	
Teddy Roosevelt	← →
Rutherford B. Hayes	← →
William Henry Harrison	← →
<u>Write-in</u> 	← →

3d.

State Representative District 14, Position #1	
<input type="radio"/>	Teddy Roosevelt
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Rutherford B. Hayes
<input type="radio"/>	William Henry Harrison
<input type="radio"/>	<u>Write-in none of the above</u>

Rule O - Not Eligible



















A write-in vote for a race that does not appear on the ballot is for a race on which the voter was not eligible to vote, and shall not be counted.

Exceptions to Rule O:

Exception 1. Provisional ballots. If a provisional ballot has been cast and the voter has written in an office or measure that is not on the ballot, that vote shall be counted if it is determined, based on the voter's registration, that he or she is eligible to vote for that office or measure.

Rule O - Example 1a

The voter has written in a vote for a race that did not appear on the ballot. This voter is not eligible to vote in Marsh Fire District, and the vote for that race shall not be counted. All other votes on this ballot are valid and shall be counted.

Sample Precinct Ballot Code 4 Leg Dist: 14		Official Ballot - Sample County, WA General Election November 6, 2222	
INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS: Fill in the oval next to your choice. VOTE LIKE THIS: 			
IF YOU MAKE A MISTAKE: Draw a line through the entire candidate's name like this:  George Washington You then have the option of making another choice if you wish.			
State Representative District 14, Position #1		State Representative District 14, Position #2	
 Teddy Roosevelt		 John Quincy Adams	
 Rutherford B. Hayes		 Dwight D. Eisenhower	
 William Henry Harrison		 Franklin D. Roosevelt	
 Write-in _____		 Write-in _____	
MARSH FIRE Englewood Fire District Commissioner		Water District 12 Commissioner	
 Martin Van Buren		 James Monroe	
 Zachary Taylor		 William McKinley	
 Ulysses S. Grant		 James Buchanan	
 <i>John Pearson</i> Write-in _____		 Write-in _____	



















Rule O - Example 1b


The voter has written in a vote for a race that did not appear on the ballot. This voter is not eligible to vote in Representative District 12, and the vote for that race shall not be counted. All other votes on this ballot are valid and shall be counted.

Sample Precinct Ballot Code 4 Leg Dist: 14		Official Ballot - Sample County, WA General Election November 6, 2222	
INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS: Fill in the square next to your choice. VOTE LIKE THIS: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
IF YOU MAKE A MISTAKE: Draw a line through the entire candidate's name like this: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> George Washington You then have the option of making another choice if you wish.			
State Representative District 12 Position #1		State Representative District 14, Position #2	
<input type="checkbox"/> Teddy Roosevelt	<input type="checkbox"/> John Quincy Adams		
<input type="checkbox"/> Rutherford B. Hayes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dwight D. Eisenhower		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> William Henry Harrison	<input type="checkbox"/> Franklin D. Roosevelt		
<input type="checkbox"/> Write-in _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Write-in _____		
Englewood Fire District Commissioner		Water District 12 Commissioner	
<input type="checkbox"/> Martin Van Buren	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> James Monroe		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Zachary Taylor	<input type="checkbox"/> William McKinley		
<input type="checkbox"/> Ulysses S. Grant	<input type="checkbox"/> James Buchanan		
<input type="checkbox"/> Write-in _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Write-in _____		

Rule O - Example 1c

The voter has written in a vote for a race that did not appear on the ballot. This voter is not eligible to vote for the Seattle Monorail, and the vote for that measure shall not be counted. All other votes on this ballot are valid and shall be counted.

Sample Precinct Ballot Code 4 Leg Dist: 14		Official Ballot - Sample County, WA General Election November 6, 2222	
INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS: Connect the arrow with a line pointing to your choice, LIKE THIS: 			
IF YOU MAKE A MISTAKE: Draw a line through the entire candidate's name like this:  John Doe You then have the option of making another choice if you wish.			
State Representative District 14, Position #1		State Representative District 14, Position #2	
Teddy Roosevelt		John Quincy Adams	
Rutherford B. Hayes		Dwight D. Eisenhower	
William Henry Harrison		Franklin D. Roosevelt	
Write-in		Write-in	
Englewood Fire District Commissioner		Water District 12 Commissioner	
Martin Van Buren		James Monroe	
Zachary Taylor		William McKinley	
Ulysses S. Grant		James Buchanan	
Write-in		Write-in	

Seattle Monorail
yes
~ Wang 

Rule P - Write-In Vote in the Wrong Place

A write-in vote for a race appearing elsewhere on the ballot shall be counted as a valid vote, as long as all other requirements are fulfilled and the office, position number and political party, if applicable, are clearly indicated.

Rule P - Example 1a

This voter has written in for a race that is already on the ballot, but in a different location. This should count as a valid vote for Teddy Roosevelt for State Representative District 14, Position 1.

Sample Precinct Ballot Code 4 Leg Dist: 14		Official Ballot - Sample County, WA General Election November 6, 2222	
INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS: Fill in the oval next to your choice. VOTE LIKE THIS: <input checked="" type="radio"/>			
IF YOU MAKE A MISTAKE: Draw a line through the entire candidate's name like this: <input checked="" type="radio"/> George Washington You then have the option of making another choice if you wish.			
State Representative District 14, Position #1		State Representative District 14, Position #2	
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Teddy Roosevelt <input checked="" type="radio"/> Ruthenford B. Hayes <input checked="" type="radio"/> William Henry Harrison <input type="radio"/> Write-in _____		<input type="radio"/> John Quincy Adams <input type="radio"/> Dwight D. Eisenhower <input type="radio"/> Franklin D. Roosevelt <input type="radio"/> Write-in _____	
Englewood Fire District Commissioner		Water District 12 Commissioner	
<input type="radio"/> Martin Van Buren <input type="radio"/> Zachary Taylor <input type="radio"/> Ulysses S. Grant <input type="radio"/> Write-in _____		<input type="radio"/> James Monroe <input type="radio"/> William McKinley <input type="radio"/> James Buchanan <input type="radio"/> Write-in _____	

State Rep Dist 14 Pos 1
☒ Teddy Roosevelt

Rule Q - Messy Marks

When otherwise valid votes marked for a candidate partially extend into the response area of another candidate, it shall be counted as a vote if most of the mark is in the proper area and intent can easily be discerned.

Rule Q - Examples 1a-d

The following are valid votes for William Henry Harrison, even though the marks partially extend into another target area.

1a.

State Representative District 14, Position #1	
<input type="radio"/>	Teddy Roosevelt
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Rutherford B. Hayes
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	William Henry Harrison
<input type="radio"/>	Write-in _____

1b.

State Representative District 14, Position #1	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Teddy Roosevelt
<input type="checkbox"/>	Rutherford B. Hayes
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	William Henry Harrison
<input type="checkbox"/>	Write-in _____

1c.

State Representative District 14, Position #1	
Teddy Roosevelt	← →
Rutherford B. Hayes	← →
William Henry Harrison	← →
Write-in _____	← →

1d.

State Representative District 14, Position #1	
<input type="radio"/>	Teddy Roosevelt
<input type="radio"/>	Rutherford B. Hayes
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	William Henry Harrison
<input type="radio"/>	Write-in _____

Rule R - Pattern of Partisan Voting

Voter intent in any single contest shall not be determined based on a pattern of partisan voting on the ballot.

Rule S - Anything Else

Voter intent on any questionable marks not explicitly falling within the parameters of the rules in this manual must be determined by County Canvassing Boards, operating under all applicable laws of the state of Washington and the rules of the Canvassing Board manual.

Glossary

Consistent Pattern

A consistent pattern on voted ballots is when the same type of mark is used for every office or issue on the ballot for which the voter has recorded a choice. A consistent pattern is required only when referring to marks made outside the target area.

Declared Write-In Candidate

A candidate whose name is not printed on the ballot, but has filed a declaration of write-in candidacy with the appropriate filing officer no later than the day before the election.

Duplicating Ballots

The process of creating a true copy of the valid votes from a ballot that cannot be properly read by the tabulation system by transferring the valid marks onto a new ballot or ballot image. When duplication is done digitally on ballot images it is referred to as 'resolving' ballots.

Target Area

The oval, square, or arrow corresponding to a candidate, write-in line, or choice on the ballot where the voter is instructed to mark his or her vote. This is the area on the ballot that the tabulation system reads.

Response Area

The area on the ballot corresponding to a candidate, write-in line, or choice, including the target area as well as the printed name or response and party information, if applicable.

Overvote

The situation in which more candidates or responses are voted for than is allowed.

Undeclared Write-In Candidate

An undeclared write-in candidate has not filed a declaration of write-in candidacy prior to the day of the election. Write-in votes cast for an undeclared write-in candidate must clearly indicate the office and position sought and, if applicable, the political party affiliation.

Undervote

A ballot or race on a ballot with no valid votes marked.

Valid Vote

A vote which should be counted.

Write-In Vote

A vote for a particular office handwritten on the ballot by the voter.

References

CASE LAW

Bush v. Gore, 531 U.S. 98, 121 S. Ct. 525, 148 L. Ed. 2d 388 (2000).

FEDERAL LAW

a) Requirements.

...

(6) Uniform definition of what constitutes a vote. Each state shall adopt uniform and nondiscriminatory standards that define what constitutes a vote and what will be counted as a vote for each category of voting system used in the state.

...

(d) Effective date. Each state and jurisdiction shall be required to comply with the requirements of this section on and after January 1, 2006.

42 U.S.C. § 15481.

STATE LAW - REVISED CODE OF WASHINGTON (RCW)

RCW 29A.36.111 Uniformity, arrangement, contents required. Every ballot for a single combination of issues, offices, and candidates shall be uniform within a precinct and shall identify the type of primary or election, the county, and the date of the primary or election, and the ballot or voting device shall contain instructions on the proper method of recording a vote, including write-in votes. Each position, together with the names of the candidates for that office, shall be clearly separated from other offices or positions in the same jurisdiction. The offices in each jurisdiction shall be clearly separated from each other. No paper ballot or ballot card may be marked in any way that would permit the identification of the person who voted that ballot.

RCW 29A.60.021 Write-in voting - Declaration of candidacy - Counting of vote.

(1) For any office at any election or primary, any voter may write in on the ballot the name of any person for an office who has filed as a write-in candidate for the office in the manner provided by RCW 29A.24.311 and such vote shall be counted the same as if the name had been printed on the ballot and marked by the voter. No write-in vote made for any person who has not filed a declaration of candidacy pursuant to RCW 29A.24.311 is valid if that person filed for the same office, either as a regular candidate or a write-in candidate, at the preceding primary. Any abbreviation used to designate office or position will be accepted if the Canvassing Board can determine, to its satisfaction, the voter's intent.

References

(cont.) (2) The number of write-in votes cast for each office must be recorded and reported with the canvass for the election.

(3) A write-in vote for an individual candidate for an office whose name appears on the ballot for that same office is a valid vote for that candidate as long as the candidate's name is clearly discernible, even if other requirements of RCW 29A.24.311 are not satisfied and even if the voter also marked a vote for that candidate such as to register an overvote. These votes need not be tabulated unless: (a) The difference between the number of votes cast for the candidate apparently qualified to appear on the general election ballot or elected and the candidate receiving the next highest number of votes is less than the sum of the total number of write-in votes cast for the office plus the overvotes and undervotes recorded by the vote tabulating system; or (b) a manual recount is conducted for that office.

(4) Write-in votes cast for an individual candidate for an office whose name does not appear on the ballot need not be tallied unless the total number of write-in votes and undervotes recorded by the vote tabulation system for the office is greater than the number of votes cast for the candidate apparently qualified to appear on the general election ballot or elected.

(5) In the case of write-in votes for a statewide office or any office whose jurisdiction encompasses more than one county, write-in votes for an individual candidate must be tallied when the county auditor is notified by either the secretary of state or another county auditor in the multicounty jurisdiction that it appears that the write-in votes must be tabulated under the terms of this section. In all other cases, the county auditor determines when write-in votes must be tabulated. Any abstract of votes must be modified to reflect the tabulation and certified by the Canvassing Board. Tabulation of write-in votes may be performed simultaneously with a recount.

RCW 29A.60.040 Rejection of ballots or parts - Write-In votes. A ballot is invalid and no votes on that ballot may be counted if it is found folded together with another ballot or it is marked so as to identify the voter.

Those parts of a ballot are invalid and no votes may be counted for those issues or offices where more votes are cast for the office or issue than are permitted by law; write-in votes do not contain all of the information required under [RCW 29A.60.021]; or that issue or office is not marked with sufficient definiteness to determine the voter's choice or intention. No write-in vote may be rejected due to a variation in the form of the name if the election board or the Canvassing Board can determine the issue for or against which or the person and the office for which the voter intended to vote.

RCW 29A.60.100 Votes by stickers, printed labels, rejected. Votes cast by stickers or printed labels are not valid for any purpose and shall be rejected. Votes cast by sticker or label shall not affect the validity of other offices or issues on the voter's ballot.

References

STATE LAW - WASHINGTON ADMINISTRATIVE CODE (WAC)

WAC 434-261-070 Manual inspection of ballots. (1) Upon receiving absentee ballots and upon breaking the seals and opening the ballot containers from the precincts, all voting positions on voted ballots shall be manually inspected on both sides of the ballot to determine whether the ballot is readable by the vote tabulating system. This manual inspection is a required part of processing ballots.

(2) The inspection of ballots tabulated at the poll site is not required provided that the poll site ballot programming provisions of RCW 29A.44.340 are in effect.

(3) If the manual inspection process detects any physically damaged ballots, unreadable ballots which might not be correctly counted by the tabulating equipment, or marks that differ from those specified in the voting instructions, the county auditor shall refer such ballots to the County Canvassing Board to be counted according to the Statewide Standards on What is a Vote, as provided in WAC 434-261-086. The County Canvassing Board shall make the final determination of voter intent for ballots not addressed in the Statewide Standards on What is a Vote.

(4) The County Canvassing Board may delegate duplication of the ballots consistent with RCW 29A.60.140.

WAC 434-261-075 Votes on something other than a ballot. If the voter returns voting responses by mail on any form other than the ballot sent, the votes thereon shall be acceptable and tallied provided that:

(1) Only votes for offices or measures for which the voter is eligible are counted.

(2) The candidate or measure response position for which the voter is voting can be clearly identified.

(3) The ballot issued is not returned, or if returned, contains no marks indicating an attempt to vote it.

(4) A valid signature on an absentee oath is received with the voting responses.

The votes accepted must then be duplicated to a ballot that can be read by the electronic voting equipment.

WAC 434-261-086 Statewide Standards on What is a Vote. (1) Pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 15481 (a) (6) and *Bush v. Gore*, 531 U.S. 98 (2000), the following standards determine whether irregular marks on a ballot constitute a valid vote that may be counted...[Rules A through S in text of this publication.]

...(2) The secretary of state shall publish an illustrated version of these standards in each optical scan and digital scan voting system used in the state. The secretary of state shall distribute the illustrated version to each County Canvassing Board and post it on the web site.

(3) The secretary of state shall periodically review and update the manual as necessary, and seek input from the County Canvassing Boards and other interested parties to ensure that the standards remain current and comprehensive.

References

WAC 434-262-031 Rejection of ballots or parts of ballots. (1) The disposition of provisional ballots is governed by WAC 434-253-047. The County Canvassing Board must reject any ballot cast by a voter who was not qualified to vote, or for other reasons required by law or administrative rule. A log must be kept of all voted ballots rejected, and must be included in the minutes of each County Canvassing Board meeting.

(2) Ballots or parts of ballots shall be rejected by the Canvassing Board in the following instances:

- (a) Where a voter has already voted one ballot;
- (b) Where two voted ballots are contained within a returned mail ballot envelope containing only one valid signature under the affidavit, unless both ballots are voted identically, in which case one ballot will be counted. If there are two valid signatures under the affidavit, both ballots must be counted;
- (c) Where a ballot or parts of a ballot are marked in such a way that it is not possible to determine the voter's intent consistent with WAC 434-261-086;
- (d) Where the voter has voted for candidates or issues for whom he or she is not entitled to vote;
- (e) Where the voter has voted for more candidates for an office than are permissible.

WAC 434-262-160 Write-In Voting - Voter Intent. (1) In all cases of write-in votes the Canvassing Board shall exercise all reasonable efforts to determine the voter's intent. Write-in votes in the general election are not to be counted for any person who filed for the same office as either a regular or write-in candidate at the preceding primary and failed to qualify for the general election. If a write-in declaration of candidacy has been filed, the voter need only write in that candidate's name in order for the vote to be counted; the candidate's party preference does not impact whether the write-in vote shall be counted. If no declaration of write-in candidacy has been filed, the voter must write in the name of the candidate and, if the office or position number cannot be determined by the location of the write-in on the ballot, the office and position number, in order for the write-in vote to be counted.

(2)(a) If a write-in candidate for partisan office does not file a write-in declaration of candidacy but does qualify for the general election ballot, the candidate has not stated a preference for a political party and therefore shall have "(states no party preference)" printed on the general election ballot.

(b) If a write-in candidate for partisan office files a write-in declaration of candidacy and qualifies for the general election ballot, the party preference stated on the write-in declaration of candidacy, if any, shall be printed on the general election ballot.